

regard the present frontier as permanent. The instinct for -eve"»se, indeed, is so deep that they are insufficiently conscious of the unfavourable diplomatic and military situation to prevent them one day being suddenly carried away by their rissicns. The German Empire can no more co-exist with the France of to-day than Rome with Carthage." Bismarck replied to these gloomy vaticinations that France was not dangerous without allies, that the Republic was much less likely to find friends than a monarchy, and therefore that the French Royalists should not be supported. "The frankness with which hatred of Germany is proclaimed and encouraged by all parties," he added on February 2, 1873, "leaves us in no doubt that any Government will regard the *Revanche* as its principal task. The only question is how long the French will need to organize their army or their alliances before they think they can resume the struggle. Directly that moment arrives the Government will be compelled to declare war on us." The danger appeared to be increased in 1873 by the fall of Thiers, whom Bismarck liked, respected and trusted, for he had opposed the war of 1870. His successor was Marshal MacMahon, distrusted by Bismarck as an Ultramontane, with the Orleanist Due de Broglie as Foreign Minister, which the Chancellor interpreted as a step towards a royalist restoration. When Arnim, who favoured the French Royalists and had no love for Thiers, was recalled in 1874, Bismarck gave Hohenlohe, his successor, the maxim for his guidance that France must not obtain sufficient strength at home or consideration abroad to secure allies.

While the payment of the indemnity in two years instead of four and the consequential evacuation was an unwelcome surprise in Germany, the increase of the army

and the refusal
of public opinion to accept the Treaty of
Frankfurt as anything
more than a truce angered Bismarck and
alarmed the military
authorities. In 1873, when some French Bishops
indulged in
violent comments on the May Laws and the
Kulturkampf, the
Chancellor decided that a sharp warning was
needed. It was
not enough that the Bishops were ordered by
their Government
to abstain from attacks, he decreed to the
French
Ambassador: they must be punished. " It is a
question of our
security. Your Bishops foment revolt in the
empire, and that
we cannot stand. If you allow these proceedings
to continue,
you will make war inevitable; and we shall begin
it before the
clerical party gains power and declares war.
That is why I